

Hart Stepping Down As Treasurer, Volunteers Sought To Fill Two Key Posts

If you like to play with numbers and have a lot of money at your fingertips, AFPAAA needs you now because Jim Hart is stepping down as treasurer at the close of our administrative year on June 30.

"It is considered by many as the key position in our association,"

said board chair Linda Arnold. "Jim Hart has done the job with conscientiousness and skill for the past six years."

The treasurer is responsible for administering the operating funds for the daily expenses of AFPAAA, our endowment fund,

and the expenses for the Annual Membership Meeting – together they total almost a quarter of a million dollars.

Having a member volunteering to be treasurer saves AFPAAA the thousands of dollars that would be expended annually to retain an accountant to process dues; pay bills, such as the printing and mailing for the newsletter; and handle the registration fees and multiple other annual meeting expenses.

"Essentially, the treasurer is responsible for keeping AFPAAA financially sound; whoever holds that position keeps us on the straight and narrow," Linda continued. "When an association fails, especially one that is operated by volunteers, it is usually because of fiscal blunders. With Jim Hart, and his predecessor, Pete Alexandrakos, AFPAAA has never faced a financial crisis. We need someone equally competent and dedicated to take over on July 1. Jim will work with that person to get them up to speed and ensure a smooth transition."

If you are interested in becoming AFPAAA treasurer and want to know the details of what is involved, call Jim at (850) 592-4740.

Another volunteer is sought to chair the Public Affairs Memorial Committee. That position has been vacant since the passing of Ed Johnson last year. Other members of the committee are Hugh Burns, William H. Campbell, Carey Deckard, and Reed Switzer.

The USAF Public Affairs Memorial sponsored by AFPAAA will be a tribute to those military and civilian men and women – active duty, reserve and guard PA's, broadcasters and bandmen – who have died while on an official assignment whether by hostile fire or in a duty related incident/accident.

An appropriate site for the memorial is being sought. Sites being considered are DINFOS, the Pentagon, and the National Museum of the United States Air Force.

Members willing to take on this important committee chair should contact AFPAAA President Tom Halbert at (941) 485-8596.



Senior Master Sergeant Stefan Alford 2005 'Best Of The Best'

Senior Master Sergeant Stefan Alford, the superintendent of USAFE Public Affairs Plans, has been named the recipient of the tenth annual AFPAAA Best of the Best award.

Announcement of the award to Sergeant Alford was made earlier this year by Colonel Michelle Johnson, director of Public Affairs.

The sergeant won the award for a multitude of accomplishments, including his skill as a planner that was critical in shaping wartime and other communications tactics for 11 USAFE bases; managing 80 PA specialists against the requirements of 10 Air Expeditionary Force cycles that was 100% effective; and providing increasing PA personnel access to realistic crisis training.

During three months of 2005 he was dual-hatted as resources manager for theater PA manpower and a \$156K budget.

Sergeant Alford also was an associate IG inspector and authored the first ever PA Phase 1 portion of the MAJCOM ORI guides.

Past recipients of the Best of the Best award were: 1994 - Senior



Airman James H. Cunningham III; 1995 - Captain Brett E. Morris; 1996 - Captain Michael J. Paoli; 1997 - Staff Sergeant Anthony J. Jacob; 1998 - Staff Sergeant William H. Hickman; 1999 - Major Frank Smolinsky; 2000 - Captain John S. Haynes; 2001 - Master Sergeant Kenneth E. Fidler; 2002 - Lieutenant Colonel Stephen D. Clutter; 2003 - Lieutenant Colonel Jon K. Anderson; 2004 - Lieutenant Colonel Roger S. Murray.

www.afpaaa.org Offers Members Access To A Multitude Of Things

Did you just use your AFPAAA membership directory to call an old friend and the listed number was no good; are you looking for a job; or do you want to check on something from a past issue of News & Notes that you didn't keep?

AFPAAA members can get help in those areas and take advantage of many other useful features at the Association's web site with just a few computer keystrokes via the internet at www.afpaaa.org

With the hard copy of our directory only published once a year, the on-line directory accessed via the web site will have the latest address and phone numbers for members – if they have kept us up to date.

Employment opportunities are there too; just a click away at the Job Search button.

Members will find complete

archives of News & Notes at the newsletter button. How to get the newsletter via e-mail is there too.

All you want to know about our current Annual Membership Meeting is available, including registration and hotel information for the next meeting; and there is general information on future meetings.

The PA Store button will take you to a selection of unique AFPAAA logo items for your own use or as gifts. Our past, as seen through the eyes of PA practitioners from the WW II era to the present, is available through the History button which enables you to get transcripts of oral history interviews.

If you want to contact AFPAAA's board of directors or a committee chair, hit the web site Contact Us button. And there is lots more; just log on and see for yourself.

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From The Pentagon

Colonel Michelle Johnson
Director

Secretary of the Air Force Office of Public Affairs



Each and everyday I am surrounded by talented, dedicated people in our career field working hard to tell the Air Force story. I appreciate this opportunity to report to you on what they're doing and how we're proceeding to realize our strategic communication vision.

At any given time, we have more than 80 Public Affairs Airmen deployed around the world on the front lines of the Global War on Terrorism. Many are on their second, third or fourth deployments. They arrive in theater combat trained and battle ready. They are the MVPs on our interdependent service teams communicating the efforts of all our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines. I'm sure you share my pride in their selfless dedication in their service to their country.

Meanwhile, consistent with the SecAF and CSAF priority of Developing Airmen we are also pursuing additional educational opportunities for PA officers. Recently, five of our officers attended the Mission Support Squadron Leadership Course at Maxwell AFB. This new endeavor for our career field develops future leaders by exposing future PA leaders to command and organizational leadership issues. The course provides a broad, conceptual view of mission support squadron functions. Although some of the class material was MSS-specific, it serves as an excellent template for a PA Leadership Course. We will continue sending field grade officers to the MSS Leadership Course and include more PA-specific breakout sessions, such as legal briefings and PA deployment planning. Our long-term objective is to develop a PA-specific course that mirrors the MSS template. Further developments may include a course for company grade officers who are about to become wing PAs and another course for field grade officers who are about to become commanders or higher-level PAs.

Rumor control department: You might have heard that, in conjunction with Program Budget Decision 720 manpower cuts across the AF, we will preserve all of our AF bands. However, we are looking at a 25% reduction across the board — including premier bands. This reduction matches the magnitude of reductions across all support career fields. The CSAF has emphasized the importance of all our AF bands; and we are working creatively to ensure that their critical mission endures.

In order to bring to life our strategic communication mission, Strategic Communication 21 is a major emphasis for PA. On 18 September I will meet with the MAJCOM directors to continue hammering out details of the organizational construct and processes that we are developing, not to mention how best to market it to commanders. The SC21 organization that major command PA directors and SAF PA agreed on a few months ago is a concept emphasizing consolidation of resources at the MAJCOM level and compliance with the "one base, one boss" concept. Basically, PA shops located at a base or geographically collocated will consolidate to one shop that services all host and tenant units.

A key component of SC21 is reach back support. Our field units need to be able to reach back to their MAJCOM, and they in turn to SAF/PA, for assistance and support. One of the main

areas they will need support is research and assessment of communication efforts. SAF/PA is currently populating our new Research/Assessment and Plans Divisions to provide that support. As these capabilities develop, their systematic planning and assessment will increase our ability to see beyond the horizon, target audiences, and allow tailoring of communication efforts.

One of our first assessment actions is measuring impact of the mid-August AF Week in St. Louis. As a test for a concept we would like to try in several locations across CONUS in 2007 and beyond, AF Week is an effort to integrate and synchronize communication activities in a way to lift awareness of the USAF. The initial, "test" AF Week included an AF Week proclamation by the Mayor of St. Louis, AF participation at major league sporting events, science museum events with an AF astronaut and a pilot, B-2 and Air National Guard F-15 flybys, band performances, senior leader attendance, and AFRS. The week culminated with the Thunderbirds performance at the Scott Air Force Base air show.

We are a Total Force, yet we have room for improvement across our components. We are exploring ways to connect with our Guard and Reserve counterparts at the working level — especially in the wings. Recently at the Senior Leadership Orientation Course, Guard commanders stressed to me their support for wing-to-wing PAO exchange of information and the potential for assistance from the seasoned PA corps in the ARC. Our MAJCOM PA directors are working on passing active-duty messages and products to ARC counterparts at MAJCOM and wing levels toward the goal of building real time communication channels across the Total Force.

The good news is that Airmen are picking up on the importance of communication at every level. Wing commanders are telling me that they want more information pushed to them about Air Force messages — they want to support SecAF and CSAF's emphasis on strategic communication . . . this is a very good thing! We have excellent products — AF Themes and Messages, SecAF and CSAF Priorities Talking Points, AF Highlights, key AFNEWS stories — and we're moving quickly to send those products directly to commanders. The AF Highlights product is something you should sign up for: www.af.mil/subscribe. This link will take you to the Subscriptions page at AFNEWS.

Finally, we're planning an Air Force Public Affairs Council meeting in November to pull together our organizational and communication focus. The council session will set the stage for a worldwide PA conference in the spring.

One theme repeats itself as we go through these changes: We are fashioning our own future. It isn't always easy, but as Henry Ford said, "Obstacles are those frightful things we see when we take our eyes off our goal." Our goal: Enabling Airmen to tell the AF Story . . . Many Voices, One Message!

Colorado Springs Meeting On Track

Program A Challenge; Northern Command, Space Com, Others Offer Much

More To Springs Area Than Military; Than Military; Extend Stay To See Diverse Sites

“The question is ‘What are we not going to do?’” said Fred Morgan, On-Site Chairman for AFPAAA’s 14th Annual Membership Meeting in Colorado Springs, May 3-5. “We have so much here that would be of interest to our members, we could fill a five-day program from dawn ‘til dusk and not cover everything.”

Fred and his committee have been working with NORAD, U.S. Northern Command, Air Force Space Command, and the Air Force Academy to put together a diverse and interesting program.

“There are so many things that are on people’s minds these days that we are involved with here in Colorado Springs,” Fred remarked. “For example, other than the Coast Guard and intercepts of aircraft, few Americans know how the military fits into the war on terror right here in the United States – Northern Command has that mission. A major portion of our space surveillance capability is directed from here – that’s Space Command’s ball park. With Cheyenne Mountain being cut back there are major changes coming to NORAD. And, the Air Force Academy, which is always of interest, has been in the spotlight for various reasons in the past couple of years. There will be some tough choices to make on what gets on the program.”



There is a lot more to Colorado Springs than its military personnel, units, and bases. By taking advantage of the special hotel rate to add a few days to your trip, our Annual Membership Meeting presents a golden opportunity to view the natural beauty of the many sites in the area, as well as the many cultural benefits of the city of Colorado Springs that is more than 6,000 feet above sea level. Always visible and of interest is Pike’s Peak which tops out at 14,110 feet; it is accessible by car or cog railway.

The Garden of the Gods 1,350-acre park at the base of Pike’s Peak, with eight miles of hiking trails, is a showcase of outstanding wildlife, plant, and red sandstone formations, including the famous Balanced Rock and Kissing Camels. For a romanticized touch of the old West, try an evening cowboy cookout and show at the Flying ‘W’ Ranch. Or, take a daytime tour of the U.S. Olympic Training Center.

Among other attractions, are the American Numismatic Association’s Money Museum, the World Figure Skating Hall of Fame, the ProRodeo Hall of Fame, and the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center.

In between your tour stops, pop into one of city’s many micro brew pubs for liquid refreshments and a snack. And, don’t miss the many fine restaurants available for dinner.



Reserve Your Room Now for AFPAAA’s 14th Annual Membership Meeting, May 3-5, at the Hilton Antlers Hotel in Colorado Springs. The AFPAAA room rate – single or double – is \$119 per night, plus tax; and it is available for up to 3 days before or after our meeting. Use the group rate code **AFPAAA** when you are making your reservation. The group rate is available until April 12. To register via the internet go to: hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/coscshf_afpaaa/index.jhtml The phone number for the hotel is: (719) 955-5600

San Antonio ‘08: Dates, Hotel Set; Wright-Patterson Picked For ‘09

With the negotiations completed and the contract with the hotel signed, the dates for the 15th Annual Membership Meeting in San Antonio have been locked in for May 15-17, 2008.

The Texas city is popular with AFPAAA members. It was where we held our first meeting in 1994 and the ninth meeting in 2002.

Our meeting headquarters for 2008 will be the flagship LaQuinta Hotel. It is across from the Riverwalk and was built a year-and-a-half ago.

“Aside from its location, and having everything we need to have a successful meeting,” observed AFPAAA Board Chair Linda Arnold, “we were able to tie our room rates to the military per diem schedule that will be in effect in 2008.”

While that per diem rate is yet to be determined, it is

expected that it will provide AFPAAA members who attend real savings.

“Today the hotel’s rate is \$182 per night while the per diem rate is \$96; for 2007 the room price will rise and the per diem is scheduled to be \$108,” Linda said. “We expect per diem to be in the \$115 range when we meet in 2008.”

Hotel parking is available and there are public lots in the area that offer attractive rates.

“We are returning to Wright-Patterson AFB in 2009,” Linda said. “We had one of our most successful meetings there in 1998.”

With the National Museum of the United States Air Force, Air Materiel Command, and Aeronautical Systems Center, as well as on-base hotel accommodations, Wright-Patterson is an ideal meeting site.



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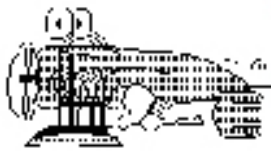
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Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association News & Notes, John Terino, editor, is published quarterly for members by the Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association, P. O. Box 447, Locust Grove, VA 22508-0447. On-line subscriptions are available at www.afpaaa.org. **Membership Information:** Individuals who have served in Air Force Public Affairs, an Air Force Band, or as an Air Force Broadcaster, military or civilian are eligible for Full Membership. Current or former Air Force Public Affairs, Broadcasters, or Bandsmen, military or civilian, still on active duty, or in the Guard or Reserve are eligible for Associate Membership. **Membership Rates:** \$300 for life membership (payable in four quarterly \$75 installments). \$25 for one-year membership or \$50 for a three-year full membership. \$10 for one-year or \$20 for three-year associate membership. Membership applications are available at www.afpaaa.org. **Board of Directors and Officers:** Chairman, Linda Arnold; President, Tom Halbert; Vice President, Pete Peterson; Secretary, Sam Giammo; Treasurer, Jim Hart; Members Dick Abel, Linda Arnold, Sam Giammo, Tom Halbert, Jim Hart, Hank Hufnagel, C. B. Kelly, Pete Peterson, Christine Queen, Hal Smarkola, John Terino, Miles Wiley. **Committee Chairmen:** Annual Meeting, Pete Peterson; Communications, John Terino; Development, Joe Purka; Elections, Kathy McCollom; Finance, Jim Hart; Membership, Neil Buttimer; Oral History, John Gura; Public Relations, Bud Ross; Web Site, John Gura.



Prop Wash & Jet Blast



Welcome Aboard To . . . *Harry Locklee, Norman D. Medland, Paul J. Sautter, Thomas C. Utts.*

New Lifers . . . *Congratulations to Sig Adams, Stephen Pivnick, and John Worthington who have upgraded to Life Memberships.*

He's Not Acting Anymore . . . *Mark V. Rosenker, acting Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board since March 2005, is acting no more. His nomination to the post by President George W. Bush was confirmed by the Senate and he was sworn in for a two year term as NTSB Chairman on August 11.*

Movin' On . . . *Brigadier General Tim White, an AFPAAA Lifetime Founder, retired in August from the SAF/PA Mobilization Assistant to the Director of Public Affairs post. Tim is the co-anchor of Cleveland's WKYC-TV 6, 7 and 11 p.m. weekday news broadcasts.*

R.I.P. . . . *Oriana Fallaci, the feisty, confrontational reporter many of us will recall from Vietnam in the late 1960s, died September 15, in Florence, Italy. She was noted for her "no holds barred" reporting and interviews with world figures ranging from Willy Brandt, Muammar Qaddafi, and Golda Meir to Deng Xiaoping, H. Rap Brown, Hugh Hefner, and the Ayatollah Khomeini.*

Author, Author . . . *Taking a break between his frequent trips, Paul "Dutch" Collins reports he is still writing for the local paper in Marengo, Ohio. A member of a local historical society, he also wielded his pen for a calendar it published.*

HOBA Heads-UP . . . *The SAF/PA Holiday Ball – known to many as the "HOBA" – is scheduled for Saturday, December 16, at the Fort McNair Officer's Club. Cocktails will be from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm followed by a buffet dinner. Further details, including cost, are to come. The point of contact at SAF/PA is Captain Sharon Kibiloski; her e-mail address is: sharon.kibiloski@pentagon.af.mil*

Lord Guard & Guide

H. Ross Miller

Ross Miller, who was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, died on June 8, 2006 at Hoag Hospital, Newport Beach, California, of complications from a fall. He was 87.

Beginning in WW II – when he flew B-25s from New Guinea, Ross' Air Force career spanned 26 years .

He attended the University of Minnesota and the University of Maryland where he earned a BA degree in Political Science in 1961.

Ross worked for the Associated Press as a reporter. Later, he was with the Ridder newspapers in Duluth, Minnesota, working for both the News-Tribune and the Herald as city editor.

His Air Force Public Affairs assignments included Japan; Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, Hickam AFB, Hawaii, and Norton AFB, California, where he retired

as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1968. He did public relations work for TRW and the Orange County Council Of Aging.

Ross was a leading senior citizen advocate in Newport Beach for more than a quarter of a century. He worked with the city to bring affordable housing to seniors.

His wife of 61 years, Yolie, died in 2002. Survivors include daughters Cary Miller of Corona del Mar, California; Mary Ross of Durham, North Carolina; son, H. Ross Miller, Jr. of Tustin, California; his brother, Robert W. Miller of Palos Verdes Estates, California, and two grandchildren, Erin and Michael Ross of Charlotte, North Carolina.

Donations in his name may be sent to the Friends of OASIS Senior Memorial Fund, 800 Marguerite, Corona del Mar, California 92625.

It's The Way He Combs His Hair . . . *Already Mayor of Olympia, Washington, AFPAAA Lifetime Founder Mark Foutch has been elected President of the Association of Washington Cities. Mark is the first AWC president from Olympia of the non-partisan private corporation that represents Washington's 281 cities and towns before the state legislature and executive branch and with regulatory agencies in the group's 72-year history.*

Once Upon A Time In Tacoma . . . *Bob Glymph heard a story about a less-than-perfect day for a KC-135 crew at Wichita in 1965 and said he would provide the narrator information about a book he had about the incident. We are pleased to report, after two moves, Bob has found the book – but he can't remember (he says he is getting accustomed to that phrase) who he promised the information to. So, for the person who has been waiting for a call from Bob, he wants them to know the book is Jet Tanker Crash, by Cornelius P. Cotter, The University Press of Kansas, 1968, ISBN/ASIN : B0006BUOMC.*



SMSGt. Alford
'Best of Best'



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